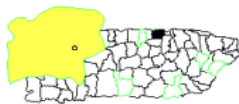


SCORPIO RECYCLING, INC. SITE TOA BAJA PUERTO RICO

EPA REGION 2
CONGRESSIONAL DIST. 01
Bayamon District
Toa Baja



EPA ID# PRD987376662

Site Description

The Scorpio Recycling, Inc. (SRI) Site (the Site) is a 6.5-acres metal recycling facility located at state road #2, km 19.7 Interior, in the Candelaria Ward of Toa Baja. The geographic coordinates of the site are 18 degree 24'33" N latitude and 66 degree 13'55" W longitude. The facility started operations in 1972 under the name of Astur Metals, Inc. and changed it to its actual name in 1989. The property contains five main buildings: (1) the batteries accumulation and aluminum cans compacting building; (2) the aluminum processing building; (3) the offices and red metal processing building; (4) the maintenance shop building; and (5) the batteries and other metals accumulation building.

SRI is located between karst hills considered a recharge area to the aquifer. The closest surface water is the Mexico Creek located at approximately 0.39 upstream miles from the south of the Site. The population within a 4-mile radius from the Site, approximately 5,495 inhabitants, relies on the Bayamón-La Plata blended system. There are seven (7) public wells in use within this radius. The closest operating public supply wells to the site are the Campanilla Wells No. 6, 7, and 8 which are found between 1 to 2 miles range and are considered primary targets since the site is located in a recharge area from groundwater and in karst topography.

On October 8, 1991 and July 14, 1993, EPA collected and analyzed several soil and surface water samples at the Site. The analytical results indicated that the soil has been contaminated with barium, lead and vanadium. The highest concentration for barium, lead and vanadium detected in the soil were 120.2 part per million (ppm), 9,530 ppm and 1,312 ppm respectively. Surface water samples also showed contamination of lead (57,300 part per billion (ppb)), barium (330 ppb) and vanadium (339 ppb).

In April 1999, EPA collected additional samples at the Site as part of an Expanded Site Investigation. The highest surface soil concentration identified the presence of 109,000 ppm lead in the former battery crushing area. The average lead concentration identified at that time was 18,735 ppm.

The mechanism for past release to the environment is based upon the improper operating and disposal practices employed at the Site for many years. Contaminants were released to the soil at the Site, in particular within the former battery crushing area and the sinkhole.

Since the time when battery crushing had ceased, this portion of the Site has been used for the temporary storage of scrap steel. Available facility records indicate that the facility receives approximately 9-million

pounds of scrap material per month from outside sources.

The Site was included in the National Priority List on October 1999.

The Site has been divided into two operable units: Operable Unit One (OU-1) to address groundwater contamination and Operable Unit Two (OU-2) to address soil contamination. The OU-1 Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study (RI/FS) started on August 2002.

On October 2000, EPA started a Time Critical Removal Action at the Site. As of today, several tons of contaminated soil have been removed, treated and disposed of. It was learned that over 2.4 million batteries were crushed and disposed of at the Site.

Site Responsibility:

This site is being addressed through
Federal actions

NPL LISTING HISTORY

Final Date: October 1999

Threats and Contaminants

Soil is contaminated with lead, vanadium and barium. A release of contaminants to the groundwater is suspected due to the fact that the area where the site is located consists of karst topography and specifically is a recharge area to the aquifer. People who accidentally ingest or come into direct contact with the contaminants from the affected areas may be at risk.

Cleanup Approach

Due to budgetary constraints the Removal Action has been delayed. A temporary action is being conducted to stabilize the contaminated soil on-Site until funds become available to complete the work.

The OU-1 RI/FS also has been impacted by the budgetary constraints. The installation of three additional wells at the Site is scheduled to begin in July 2004.

Response Action Status

A temporary stabilization of contaminated soil is being conducted at the Site as an interim removal action until additional funds become available.

Three additional monitoring wells are scheduled to be installed on June 2004 as part of the OU-1 RI/FS.

Environmental Progress

As of today, several tons of contaminated soil have been removed, treated and disposed of. It was learned that over 2.4 million batteries were crushed and disposed of at the Site.